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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Hiroyuki MATSUO, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 1520
	:	
Application No.: 09/977,487	:	Group Art Unit: 2675
	:	
Filed: October 16, 2001	:	Examiner: A.A. Awad
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For: ELECTRONIC PAPER FILE	:	

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Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a

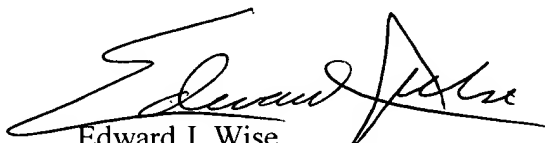
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counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as described in 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

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Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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(PTO-1449)

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50023-156SERIAL NO.
09/977,487**RECEIVED**APPLICANT
Hiroyuki MATSUO, et al.**NOV 01 2004**FILING DATE
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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						Yes	No
		JP 04-355786	12/09/92	Hitachi Ltd.		X	

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.